

**Introduced by Senator Liu**

(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Stone)

**(Coauthors: Senators Berryhill, Block, Cannella, DeSaulnier, Evans, Fuller, Huff, Jackson, Leno, Mitchell, Pavley, Steinberg, Vidak, and Wolk)**

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Ammiano, Bloom, Chesbro, Cooley, Dickinson, Hall, and Quirk-Silva)

April 28, 2014

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 117—Relative to Foster Care Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 117, as introduced, Liu. Foster Care Month.

This measure would declare the month of May 2014 as Foster Care Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, In California there are approximately 64,622  
2 children and youth in foster care who need and deserve safe,  
3 permanent connections to loving adults, a stable home, and  
4 adequate preparation for a secure future; and  
5 WHEREAS, The needs of children and youth for belonging and  
6 unconditional emotional commitment are best met in families; and  
7 WHEREAS, Many California counties have successfully  
8 supported permanent family connections for foster youth, provided  
9 support for families at risk of entering the child welfare system,  
10 and changed practices to fully engage youth, family, and  
11 communities, thereby reducing the number of children in foster  
12 care; and

1 WHEREAS, California recognizes the enduring and valuable  
2 contribution of relatives and foster and adoptive parents who open  
3 their hearts, families, and homes to vulnerable children and youth;  
4 and

5 WHEREAS, California recognizes the numerous individuals  
6 and public and private organizations that work to ensure that the  
7 needs of children and youth living in and leaving foster care are  
8 met, that help provide foster and former foster children and youth  
9 with vital connections to their siblings, and that help launch young  
10 people into successful adulthood; and

11 WHEREAS, The federal Fostering Connections to Success and  
12 Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 offers opportunities to promote  
13 permanent families for children in foster care, improve outcomes  
14 for older youth in foster care, increase support for Native American  
15 foster children, improve the quality of staff working with youth  
16 in the child welfare system, expand our support of relative and  
17 adoptive caregivers, and assist older youth in securing meaningful  
18 supportive transitions from foster care; and

19 WHEREAS, This federal law affirms California's leadership  
20 and success in pioneering innovative child welfare approaches;  
21 and

22 WHEREAS, California is committed to working in partnership  
23 with the federal government and local governments to improve  
24 the lives and futures of all children and youth touched by the child  
25 welfare system; now, therefore, be it

26 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
27 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature declares the month of  
28 May 2014 as Foster Care Month; and be it further

29 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
30 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.